

In 1998, the master plan for the Lower Estuary of the Neponset River Reservation (Phase I) was completed, and much of the that plan, up to Central Avenue, has been implemented. Building on the success of the earlier Phase I Plan, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) embarked upon a master plan for a major section of the Neponset River Reservation extending from Central Avenue on the Boston/Milton line to Paul's Bridge in Hyde Park. This plan provides access to the river, a continuous trail connecting to the Phase I trail, five MBTA stations and several private development sites along the river, as well as a wide range of recreation opportunities for the adjacent neighborhoods and region.

Neponset River Master Plan – Phase II Paul's Bridge to Central Avenue, Boston and Milton



NEPONSET RIVER RESERVATION MASTER PLAN PHASE II

Master Plan Priorities

The plan is based on the following priorities:

- A continuous river corridor path system, including a multi-use path along Truman Parkway
- A balance between recreation resources (including increased access to the river and the reservation) and conservation actions to protect important natural resources
- Numerous access points (both visual and physical) from both sides of the river
- Improved safety and security
- Enhanced views of the river and the reservation land for pedestrians, drivers, and MBTA riders
- Connections from the reservation both to the adjacent communities and to other recreational corridors including the Blue Hills Reservation, Stonybrook Reservation, Mother Brook, Pine Tree Brook, Reservation Road Park and The Fowl Meadow
- Signage for activities as well as interpretive signage for natural and historic features
- Clean-up of the riverfront and enhancement of valuable natural habitat areas
- Provision of facilities for canoe/kayak rental, benches and picnic tables



The plan includes a continuous multi-use trail along Truman Parkway from Paul's Bridge to Mattapan Square.



Paul's Bridge, built in 1849, marks the upstream boundary of the project area.

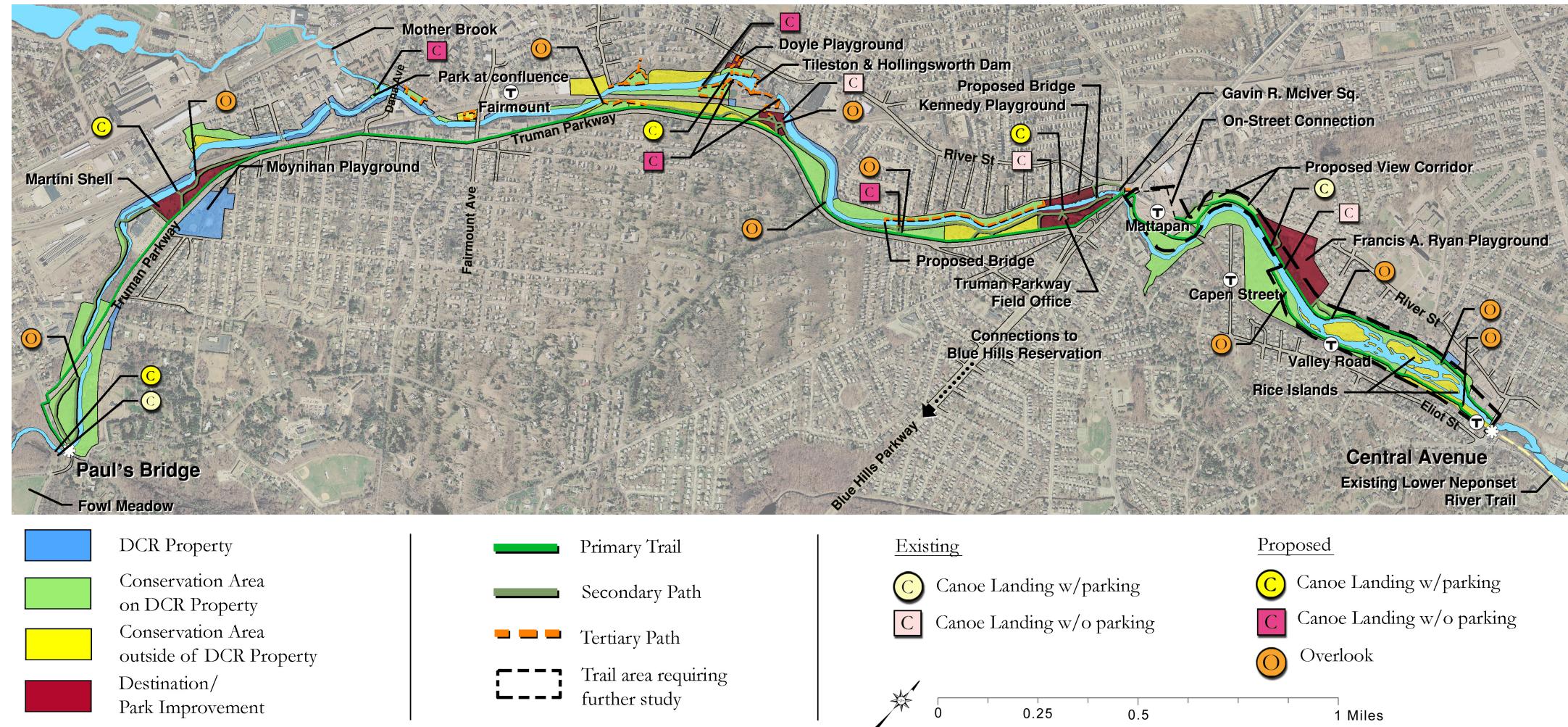


The existing brick Truman Parkway Field Office could be rehabilitated to house seasonal canoe/kayak rentals and an ice cream vendor. A new canoe/kayak landing and picnic area is also proposed for this site. Eight new canoe/kayak landings are proposed along the length of the project area, bringing the total number to 16. The new canoe landings along the river will allow canoers to pull out, enjoy the view and perhaps have a picnic. Parking improvements at four of these locations will provide opportunities to begin and end at various points for trips of different lengths.



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NEPONSET RIVER RESERVATION MASTER PLAN PHASE II



The Master Plan includes:

- Continuous river corridor path system from Paul's Bridge to Phase I trail at Central Avenue
- Access to the path system from the MBTA Red Line and commuter rail stations.
- Connections to local pedestrian pathways and bicycle trails.
- Improvements at key destinations: Proposed improvements to destinations within the reservation include new plantings, play equipment, signage, parking, picnic tables, scenic overlooks, canoe launches and general maintenance activities. Highlighted destinations are:
 - Martini Shell
 - Doyle Playground
 - Downstream of Tileston and Hollingsworth Dam (new destination)
 - Truman Parkway Field Office
 - McGiver Square
 - Kennedy Park
 - Ryan Playground
- **Water trail:** A series of eight new canoe landings along the river will allow canoeists to pull out, enjoy the view and perhaps have a picnic. Parking improvements at four of these locations will provide opportunities to begin and end at various points for trips of different lengths.
- **Overlooks:** A series of eight proposed overlooks will provide scenic views of the river. In many cases these are sited in locations where long views up or down the river are possible. Some sites are easily accessible from the adjacent road while others are accessible only from the path system.
- **Signage:** A signage system will help to "announce" the river and the reservation and will encourage passersby to use the trails and other resources. Interpretive signage will highlight important cultural and natural resources along the trail.
- **Conservation areas:** Conservation measures focus on vegetative communities, including areas of habitat preservation. Additional or replacement vegetation is suggested for areas that have been impacted in the past or will be by the future implementation of the plan.
- **Management and Maintenance:** A long-term management plan includes recommendations for maintenance of the reservation, as well as recommendations for reservation clean-up and ongoing operations.
- **Safety and security:** A safety and security plan, outlining coordination between DCR, MBTA, and state and local police departments, will ensure that the trails and adjacent destinations are well monitored.
- **Recommendation for further study:** It is recommended that funding be provided to further study the location of the trail and/or bridge locations between Central Avenue and Ryan Playground. The study will take into account community concerns related to safety and security, as well as issues related to wetlands and environmental constraints for bridge approaches and length, accessibility and cost. The final location of the path in this area as well as the resolution of issues related to getting into and out of Mattapan Square will be determined in this study.



Proposed improvements to the **Martini Shell** would include short-term measures to waterproof the structure in addition to long-term rehabilitation of back-stage areas to allow for live performances. A new canoe/kayak landing is also proposed for the site.



The **Kennedy Playground** site is currently home to community gardens and the Native Species Nursery run by the Boston Natural Areas Network. The plan proposes to keep those uses, while adding a play structure, seating area and basketball courts. The park would be expanded to include property recently acquired by DCR. A new pedestrian bridge would connect this park to the Truman Parkway Field Office park.



Recommendations for **Ryan Playground** include security improvements and access improvements to the canoe/kayak landing and the proposed river corridor trail system. The park's play structures, pool, pool house and courts are in good condition.